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Wrangell St. Elias News

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty"

Volume Thirteen Issue One

January & February 2004

Two Dollars

Park Service battles area residents in federal court



Doug Frederick— “Construction of facilities (bridging) within the park without a permit.” (see photo above) Story page 8.

Joshua Pilgrim— “Doing business in the park without a permit.” (Took undercover agent on horseback ride to Bonanza.) Story page 7

Joseph Pilgrim— “Trespassing, vandalism.” (Tried to get to his mine after NPS blocked the entrance.) Story page 12.

A note from the publisher

BY BONNIE KENYON

It is the day after Christmas and Rick and I are putting the last of the finishing touches on the first issue of *Wrangell St. Elias News* for the upcoming new year. The first thing I want to do is to thank all you, our readers, for your support of us and this humble publication. For our new subscribers, the *News* is published entirely in our log cabin. Most people assume we send our work out but, frankly, there are times when we can't get out; that is, not very easily. From our beginnings in 1992, we purchased equipment and Rick donned the hat of printer, learned how to do everything else that needed to be done.

Rick and I flew to Florida this last month to visit family members and while there we purchased a new piece of equipment – a Ricoh Priport JP5000. Once again Rick is learning to operate something new. We hope you enjoy our new format and size and an upgrade in quality. We do this all with you in mind!

WSEN welcomes aboard the following subscribers: Tom Williams, AK; Martin Prochnik, VA; Bill and Shirley Whiteside, TX; E. Twietmeyer, OR; Verne McWilliams, WA; Paul Silveira, AK; Charlie Forbes, AK; Rob and Stephanie Tasker, AK; Wayne Lashbrook, OH; James and Margaret Kean, OR; Jana Rosenbaum, TX; Rob Rosenbaum, TX; Jay McCarthy, AZ; Cheryl Collin, ME; Bill Murrell, MO; Sharon Wald, ND.

The following is excerpted from a letter written by someone intimately acquainted with the

Pilgrim situation. It points out the problems that arise when unelected officials are given extensive police powers.

"The NPS spent a large amount of money this past summer assessing the damage allegedly caused by the Pilgrims when transiting the McCarthy - Green Butte road last year or earlier this year. In addition, the NPS caused a survey to be performed to establish where the property boundaries are. The costs for these two programs may have exceeded \$500,000. The property was sold to the Pilgrims for only a little over \$400,000, so if the NPS were to seek a judgment against the family for damages, probably it would force the family off the land and into bankruptcy. This is not to say that it will happen, however, it is a threat that can be held over their heads for many years, as a means of compelling compliance."

"If this makes you uncomfortable, it should. It is a subtle manifestation of the exercise of police power, but it is certainly very palpable. Pilgrim wanted to go back and forth to his home in one of the most remote corners of the country—a tiny valley at the end of a long road in a large state—without having to talk to anyone or get anyone's permission. He felt that it would be a good thing to be surrounded by parklands, because no one could encroach upon him and his family. It hasn't turned out that way. Instead, there has been a constant series of confrontations by NPS personnel—personal visits by armed officers, letters, public no-

tices for their benefit, bundles left at their campsite, etc. Despite the family's best efforts to chase the NPS away, the Superintendent and Chief Ranger has been in their face incessantly, demanding meetings, applications, and licenses. The threats have not simply been for damage claims, but there have also been very marginally justified misdemeanor charges brought against them as well. Finally, they have had to endure an onslaught of invasive publicity, with reporters crawling all over their homestead and resurrecting deprecatory allegations about them dating back forty years or more. They have tried to deal with all of this in good humor, but have been deeply injured by the experience, nonetheless."

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E-mail: WSEN@starband.net.

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Contributors to this issue: George Cebula, Ned Rozell, Peggy Guntis, Susan Smith, Kurt Stenehjem, Paula Easley, Traci Gressel and Rene Welty.

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Items of Interest

BY BONNIE KENYON

Jim and Audrey Edwards: December is a great time of the year to visit the Edwards – at least that is my take on it. When I called Audrey the other day for an “item,” she told me there were cookies and candy all over the house. She was getting prepared for the Christmas Cookie Exchange as well as gifts for family members. Speaking of the cookie swap, Audrey commented on how much she appreciated the nice comments and thank you’s from the menfolk who received this year’s cookie plates.

Now that winter is a sure thing here in McCarthy – 28 inches of snow on the ground, e.g. – Audrey says she is trying to adjust but admits she is working at trying to stay warm. Jim is doing what he can to see that she does, too. For instance, his primary project these days is installing hot water pipes in the main floor of the house which is also the ceiling of their basement. There is nothing like a nice, warm floor especially in the winter, says Audrey. Jim is taking full advantage of the reprieve in the -32 degrees that the McCarthy area experienced in November.

Keith and Laurie Rowland and family: I just received *The Rowland Revue 2003* which was penned by Laurie somewhere in-between home-school for 4 of her 5 children, her secretarial and bookwork for the family business, Rowcon Services, treasury assistant chores for the McCarthy Kennicott Community Church and last, but not least, her most appreciated position as church pianist. Whew! That tired me out just typing up her duties.

Laurie reports that Keith has kept busy with local dirt work jobs, and now that winter has settled in,

he is enjoying doing finish work on the inside of their home. In fact, he recently put most of the finishing touches on their loft bedroom and on another bedroom. According to the *Revue*, “Keith says it is very satisfying to see our building material pile shrinking.”

The boys look forward to Saturdays when “dad” takes the boys trapping. Kaleb, who is in the 6th grade this year, would much rather be on such an outdoor excursion than working on his math or English, writes Laurie.

David is a 4th grader this year and is the most organized of the “boys.” Mom says, “No one tells *him* to make his bed every day.”

Daniel is doing 3rd grade work this year. His favorite pastime these days is reading for fun and entertainment. His spelling has greatly improved, too, says mom/teacher.

Hannah, who is 7 years old, loves schoolwork and being a teacher’s assistant for her mom. She is also becoming a very competent secretary/receptionist for Rowcon Services. The other day Rick called them, wanting to send a fax. Usually we ask to speak to Laurie but Hannah assured Rick she was able to take care of that chore herself. And she did!

When things get too serious in the Rowland classroom, Jubal – who has been dubbed “anti-school” – always comes through with his class clownsmanship. He is also known to cause slight distractions when he gets into his brothers’ CAT equipment models and Legos. No one can stay mad at him for long, says Laurie; his adoring blue eyes capture the hearts of many a family member and friend.

Don, Lynn, Rene and Sarah Welty: I had the pleasure of snow-

machining down to the Welty house the other day. My primary goal was to touch bases with Sarah who is home for the holidays. She brought pictures of her newfound friends and classmates and her school campus. She is having a wonderful time, she says, and adjusting well to her new surroundings in Jackson Hole, Wy. Welcome home – although briefly – Sarah!

Rene has set some rather stringent goals for this year’s schoolwork, says Lynn, and she is moving right along. Her studies have included a new subject this year – guitar lessons from local artist Jürgen Ogrodnik, who told me his students (Rene and Tyee Lohse of Long Lake) are doing very well. I am hoping there will be a recital held sometime in the near future!

As I was typing this out, Lynn dropped by on her way back from mail. We had a nice visit over a cup of tea. It is Christmas week and she and Rene have laid the schoolbooks aside so they can have more family time while daughter Sarah is home.

Don is tending his trap line and glad to have the extra time winter affords to do those projects that just don’t get done during the busy summer season.

Neil Darish and Doug Miller: Doug is just returning from a trip to India. I hope he is coming home refreshed because I think Neil needs a break. When I talked to him the other day, he was elated to report that he was receiving reservations from even more tour groups than usual. Bookings were up for this time of year and he foresees a great summer season for the McCarthy Lodge, Ma Johnson Hotel and the Lancaster Hotel.

Neil and Doug have a “to-do” list for the winter and spring

months. We can expect to see a new look for the front of Ma Johnson's and a sprucin' up for several rooms inside.

The other evening while leaving the church building I couldn't help but notice a large, yellow light coming from the area of the McCarthy Lodge. It turned out to be Neil and Doug's new system of grow lights for their ample supply of house plants. Neil says the lights produce a great deal of heat as well which is helping to heat their living room. Hopefully, Doug's green thumb will

be itching soon to start those early garden plants and flowers for us local gardeners.

Welcome back, Doug!

THANK YOU! The McCarthy community extends their thanks to the Department of Transportation employees, George Levasseur, Sam Taylor and the Chitina crew, for all the wonderful snow plowing that was approved and done in November to the McCarthy Road and airstrip!! It was certainly a job well done and GREATLY appreciated.

Condolences: Kennicott Kid Inger Jensen Ricci has passed on the sad news that Kennicott Kid Mary Ellen Clark (Duggan) passed away October 2, 2003. Writes Inger: She was very dear to me, as we started school together in Kennecott and we have corresponded all these years. I saw her a few times, but most recently at our last reunion at Kennecott. I believe she attended all the reunions." Our condolences go out to the family of Mary Ellen.

Keeping with Christmas tradition — McCarthy style

BY BONNIE KENYON

McCarthy: – Tradition is a word not always looked upon with pleasure. Sundry people see it as a distasteful rut and one to avoid at all costs. The McCarthy ladies, however, can attest to the fact there are some traditions that warm the heart and do wonders for ones' tastebuds. Such is the ladies-only cookie exchange.

Audrey Edwards, this year's (and several others) hostess, distributed invitations announcing time and place of the luncheon and cookie swap -- December 10th, "after mail," at the Edwards' house. Local ladies were encouraged to "pass the word as every lady is invited."

For those of you who don't understand what the term "after mail" means, I think a simple explanation is in order. McCarthy does not have its own post office. We do have what we call a mail shack – a small building that contains individual wooden mail boxes labeled with names or businesses in the McCarthy/Kennicott area. There are over 80 boxes now. About half of these belong to year-round residents; others serve summertime visitors and seasonal businesses.

McCarthy's official post office is located in Glennallen, 125 miles away. Mail comes in by air. Our mail carrier is Lynn Ellis of Ellis Air Taxi, based in Gulkana. He flies mail and passengers in and out twice a week, Wednesdays and Fridays (always weather permitting!). Mail day gatherings are one of our good traditions. A great time and place to visit neighbors while you wait for a couple of local volunteers to sort the incoming mail.

And, so, Wednesday the 10th was one of those days with the time frame for the cookie exchange being the proverbial "after mail."

Thirteen ladies, after making certain their mail was taken care of, traveled to the Edwards' house on Swift Creek. The leading mode of transportation was snowmachine. The aroma of Audrey's hot spiced tea greeted each of us. A delicious lunch of turkey salad, turkey and ham roll ups, crab meat and artichoke dips, and cranberry sauce cake was a grand lunch for anyone but for us McCarthy ladies it was grander than grand!

Plenty of laughter and neighbor-updating-neighbor took place while sampling Audrey's delicious fare. A call went out for "music making"

and the first lady to step up to Audrey's piano was Julie Miller who entertained us with her rendition of "The Turkey Song." Michelle Gressel bravely took a turn and played one of my favorite songs, "How Great Thou Art." After a plea for someone to play a few Christmas carols, Laurie Rowland, graciously agreed to do the honors. It didn't take long for us ladies to join in singing the familiar songs of the season. A round of applause went up for our local artists.

With darkness soon approaching we ladies decided we better get to the exchange part of our annual event. Audrey's table soon became full to overflowing with all manner of cookies and candies. Each lady had contributed at least 3 dozen of their favorite goodies. A circle soon formed and away we went – round and round – until every container was emptied and our individual containers were full. The men and boys that awaited the ladies' return would eat good that night!

Another tradition that emerged from the earlier annual cookie swaps was the distribution of "bachelor" plates. This year 13 cookie/candy plates were filled and passed out among the single men in our community. The ladies are al-

ways gracious and even included a few of the married men that were having to "bach" it while their wives were out of town. John Adams was one of those. He really took to Audrey's chocolate-covered cherries and even made the effort to call and thank her. One of the bachelors, Dan Elofsen, claims his plate of

sweets "saved his life." Seems he was walking home to his cabin the night it was given to him. He was cold, hungry and tired. If he only had a candy bar, he thought. Then the idea came that there was a plate of goodies in his backpack. Pulling the plate out, he found a good spot alongside the road and had himself

a good dose of sugar. The boost of energy was just what he needed to finish out his journey.

The ladies of the community and the menfolk say "thanks" to Audrey Edwards for keeping with tradition and hosting another successful Cookie Exchange!



Forefront from left to right: Hannah Rowland, Traci Gressel, Audrey Edwards.

WSEN staff photo

Standing in back: Bonnie Kenyon, Laurie Rowland, Sarah Welty, Lynn Welty, Meg Hunt, Diane Milliard, Allie Keller, Michelle Gressel. *Rene Welty and Julie Miller are busy taking pictures!

NPS superintendent says communities assets, not liabilities

America's national parks were created to preserve natural, cultural and historic resources. But the human aspect often gets left out. That's the opinion of John Debo, superintendent of the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area in Ohio. Debo says some national parks surround towns, villages and farms. He says park service policy is to buy them out.

"I think some very important cultural assets — these communities, towns, villages, farmsteads,

whatever - have been placed within park boundaries and then, of course, subsequently eliminated. We have a name for these things; it's called inholders. It's really a pejorative term; it suggests that it's something that's there that shouldn't be there."

Debo says many of the homes bought by the park service have remained vacant and boarded up, creating eyesores. Debo says Cuyahoga Valley takes a different approach.

"We're essentially arriving at the decision that the highest and best use, from a park perspective, of these properties is private residential occupancy. That is what is historically authentic. I'm really not interested in turning these villages into museum landscapes."

Debo says rather than trying to eliminate or ignore inholder communities, the National Park Service should take an interest in their well-being. He says many of them are centuries old and can be a historical asset to the national parks.

Pilgrim family access request goes to 9th Circuit

ANCHORAGE:- A federal judge on November 18, 2003, rejected the Pilgrim family's request to use the McCarthy-Green Butte Road so they can haul winter supplies to their cabin near McCarthy in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

The Pacific Legal Foundation (PLF) had filed a lawsuit against the federal government in a highly publicized case that pits the Pilgrim family against the National Park Service. Environmental groups soon joined in. The National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA), Alaska Center for the Environment (ACE), and The Wilderness Society (TWS) intervened on behalf of the National Park Service. The environmentalists were represented in the case by Trustees for Alaska.

U.S. District Judge Ralph Beistline denied the Pilgrim family's motion for a temporary restraining order, saying the National Park Service was justified in wanting to assess the environmental impact of reopening the road. But some area residents are wondering where the judge got the information that he based his decision on.

"Vehicular travel over the road-way in question has not occurred for more than 65 years. This was not a secret at the time plaintiffs purchased the property, as many living within the park boundaries lack vehicular access to their property," Beistline wrote in his 18-page ruling. "Therefore, it is reasonable to allow the Park Service time to investigate the issue before making a decision."

A number of local residents testified of using the road in recent years at a meeting in McCarthy on April 18. "When I moved to McCarthy there was no road to McCarthy but there was a good road up McCarthy Creek beyond the

Motherlode. Everybody in McCarthy used that road on a regular basis. And we have through the years," said Gary Green, who has lived in the area for nearly 30 years. Superintendent Candelaria was present at that meeting.

This, and other information that came out in the case prompted Pacific Legal Foundation Attorney Russell Brooks to file a motion for reconsideration on November 26. The judge denied that request.

"For the six months we've been involved in this case, a lot of our time has been taken up undoing and investigating lies and misinformation spread by the Park Service," said Chuck Cushman, Executive Director of the American Land Rights Association that has been helping the Pilgrims gain access to their home. "This ruling was based on written affidavits and it appears that Judge Beistline may have relied heavily on misstatements made by the National Park Service in their affidavits," Cushman said.

"The judge did not rule on the big and important RS 2477 or the ANILCA 1110b Right-Of-Way issues. He said that it was reasonable for the Park Service to require a permit," Cushman said. The family has been trying to obtain a permit since June 6, when Papa, David and attorney J.P. Tangen met with then NPS Regional Director Rob Arnberger and discussed permitting requirements. Shortly after the meeting, on July 8, Pilgrim requested a permit from Superintendent Gary Candelaria. That was followed by two more attempts in September. Candelaria said he would need to do an Environmental Assessment first, a procedure that would take a minimum of 9 weeks. Candelaria did offer to waive the considerable expense normally associated with the process.

"For the Pilgrim family, access means survival," said Brooks. "Rather than being a responsible regulatory agency, the National Park Service has forced a standoff with Papa Pilgrim, who merely wants to continue use of the road to provide for his family's needs. The Pilgrims are in an emergency situation. Yet, the Park Service callously claims that the family's predicament isn't considered an emergency 'under federal regulations.' The Park Service has drawn a line in the sand, dismissing the urgent needs of people—including small children living in Arctic conditions," said Brooks.

Supporters of the family said Beistline's ruling is just the beginning of their legal battle. The ruling was largely based on procedural grounds, said Chuck Cushman. "This is just round one of a 15-round bout."

Enviros make it clear they do not like property rights groups like Cushman's. "It is clear that property-rights extremists are using this case to further their own special interest political agenda," said Eleanor Huffines, Alaska regional director for The Wilderness Society. "The Park Service has a duty to protect national parks for all Americans. Secretary Gale Norton has repeatedly said that bogus road claims like this one won't be allowed in national parks and other protected places. Now is the time for her to live up to that promise and vigorously defend the park."

At the heart of the dispute is the Park Service's concern for spawning fish and possible damage to unfrozen ground. The road to the Pilgrims' property crosses McCarthy Creek several times. The Park Service contends that by using the road, the fish swimming in the creek might be subjected to harm.

The Park Service has demanded that an Environmental Impact Study be completed before discussions about a permit for the Pilgrims could begin. Such an expensive study would take nearly nine weeks to complete.

The Pilgrims did get a boost from state officials, even as they were losing in federal court. The state Department of Natural Resources said it does not consider McCarthy Creek to be an anadro-

mous stream. (Fish that go to sea and return to fresh water to spawn—typically salmon). A recent Park Service effort had turned up some Dolly Varden trout, including one that appeared to come from the sea. As things stand now, the Pilgrims won't need to get stream-crossing permits from the state as part of the national park permit process.

The Pacific Legal Foundation filed an emergency motion on De-

cember 24 in the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco, asking the court to overturn the Beistline decision.

"The Park Service is seeking to lock up national parks and prevent access to private land. This is nothing more than another chapter in the federal government's ongoing land grab," said Brooks. "Tragically, women and children are being placed in harm's way."

Judge fines Joshua Pilgrim \$1000

WSEN STAFF

In a non-jury trial, federal Magistrate Harry Branson found Joshua Pilgrim, 23, guilty of the misdemeanor crime of doing business on federal land without a permit.

According to testimony in the two-day trial, Joshua agreed to take NPS undercover agent Stephen Rooker on a trip up the Bonanza Mine trail in August. Joshua's attorney, Carl Bauman, argued that the ranger entrapped Joshua, insisting that they go to the mine.

The misdemeanor charge carried a maximum penalty of six months in jail and a \$5,000 fine. The prosecution dropped the prison sentence element prior to the hearing to avoid a jury trial.

Bauman asked the judge to set the sentence at \$200, the amount Rooker paid for the trip. Chandra Postma, staff attorney for the U.S. Department of the Interior's solicitor's office, asked for a minimum \$3,000 fine. She called his conduct "brazen." Judge Branson set the amount at \$1,000. "I believe this amount of money is well within the defendant's resources to pay," Branson said. He gave Joshua a year and a day to pay the fine.

Hunter Sharp, chief ranger and assistant superintendent for Wrangell-St. Elias, testified that he planned the operation and asked Rooker to work undercover.

Rooker testified that he rode with Joshua and 10-year-old Noah Hale on horse back from Kennicott up the steep switchback trail to Bonanza Mine, took pictures at the top with a digital camera and ate lunch with them.

Rooker also testified that he

lodging for two nights at McCarthy B&B, and a glacier hike with Kennicott Wilderness Guides. When it turned out the relatives were fictitious, NPS was forced to pay for the bogus lodging arrangements.

Defense attorney Carl Bauman argued that the trail is a state right-of-way. He said there was no evidence that Hale did business at the mine, which is on federal land, because they didn't ride horses there and Rooker didn't get a tour of the mine. Alaska Department of Natural Resources's Sam Means testified that the trail to Bonanza was indeed an RS 2477 State of Alaska public highway.

Joshua said after the hearing that he still feels innocent and believes he was entrapped by the Park Service. The National Park Service "can't find me guilty of anything," he said. "They've got to create a situation to where I am guilty."

Joshua said his family has been "afflicted" by the dispute with the National Park Service. "Financially, it's very difficult because our summer has been swallowed up in park issues," he told the judge.

Latest word as we go to press is that Joshua will appeal the verdict.



Photo courtesy Pilgrim family

Joshua helps NPS Ranger Richard Larrabee across McCarthy Creek earlier this summer.

arranged another trip with the Pilgrim family for six "relatives," putting down a deposit of \$65 for the trip that was priced at \$1,200. At the same time, apparently to add "reality" to the sting operation, Rooker asked the Pilgrims to book

Doug Frederick's day in court

BY KURT STENEHJEM

Doug Frederick sat at the defendant's table, his back to the judge's bench, his eyes scanning the audience, as if he was wondering why he was in this chair while everyone else was safe on the other side of the bar. Dressed in slacks and a variegated blue wool shirt the look on his face held a thin smile but his eyes communicated pain. Frederick is a thin man, in his mid fifties, with a full head of graying hair cut and combed in a style reminiscent of the Fonz. He pivoted back and forth in the swivel chair like a searchlight, his eyes sweeping the room, looking for hope.

Sitting next to the defendant was his attorney, Wayne Anthony Ross. Ross, a former president of the Alaska National Rifle Association and unsuccessful Alaska state gubernatorial candidate, drives a candy apple red Hummer whose license plates read "WAR."

Ross is as thick as Frederick is thin. His large frame was festooned in a heavy twill wool suit, almost an olive drab color, not of a business style but rather that of one on safari. It seemed

Mr. Ross was looking to bag himself some big game.

At the prosecution table sat Joe Darnell, attorney for the U.S. Department of the Interior's Solicitor's office. Mr.

Mr. Larrabee, in a cream-colored suit, was almost invisible.

Assembled in federal court Room 6 were about twenty people.

On the right side of the aisle were a number of NPS employees including Hunter Sharp, who is the assistant superintendent and the park ranger who cited Mr. Frederick. Gary Candelaria, the park's superintendent, sat in the same row with a seat in between them.

Two seats to the right of Candelaria sat Jane Hendrick. Her card reads that she is the "Regional Special Agent in Charge." It does not say what she is in charge of. She told me she is the chief of law enforcement for the National Park Service. She reports directly to Washington. It is her job to oversee the prosecution of park offenders. A very friendly woman with a casual demeanor, she is here to observe the Park Service's legal strategies and implement improvements where needed.

At 9:28 AM the court clerk stood and barked, "All rise; U.S. District Court in the District of Alaska is now in session. The Honorable Judge John D. Roberts, presiding."

The trial followed the typical format, the prosecution presented his opening arguments, then the defense presented his,



Photo courtesy Doug Frederick

This is the photo that Doug sent to NPS Regional Director Rob Arnberger last May. Arnberger's response? "It might offer some temporary solutions. I hope your meeting will discuss details such as this."

Darnell is a slight man with a round head. His hair is sandy blonde and neatly groomed. His voice and presence were almost apologetic. He was the meek to Mr. Ross's macho. Sitting next to Mr. Darnell was Richard Larrabee, a full time criminal investigator for the National Park Service stationed in Glennallen.

then the prosecution called his witnesses and then the defense cross-examined then they changed places. So the dance went.

The gist of the evidence was this: The Park Service posted some trails closed that they were claiming were "newly established." In the spring of 2002 the Park Service scheduled a meeting at the very small Slana Ranger Station to discuss those closures. They did not widely publicize the meeting. Still, nearly one hundred people showed up.

Now the reader needs to understand the significance of that many people coming to a meeting in Slana.

First, these people don't generally like meetings. That's why they live way out there in the woods, to get away from meetings and people who like to show up for meetings.

Second, there is a lot of real estate that separates these people from one another. They don't live in little houses right next door to each other. This meeting drew people from long distances, out of warm cabins and away from busy lives to confront unpopular park personnel because these trails are an integral part of their existence.

These trails are not like a bike path that is nice to walk the dog on in the morning. When city people think of trails they think of recreation, they think of a cute path to use when they are out goofing around. There are few roads in this neck of the woods. Trails are how these people get to their groceries, no, not to the corner Speedy Mart, but to the

What cost "justice?"

The Park Service told Mr. Frederick that they did not have money for trail repair.

Actually, during the summer of 2002 the NPS Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program was the recipient of a \$30,000 grant from the State Recreation Trail Grant program. Incredibly, they elected to spend the money on a trail 30 miles *outside* the park, on BLM land.

Yet the NPS had money to prosecute Mr. Frederick. Mr. Darnell costs \$108,573 a year, Mr. Candelaria about \$100,000 per year, Mr. Sharp about \$85,000 per year, Mr. Dalton and Mr. Larabee another \$70,000 each. Ms. Hendrick costs approximately \$108,000 a year assuming she is a GS 13-14 like Candelaria. The Judge must cost in excess of \$120,000.

This trial was costing over \$350 dollars an hour on the prosecution side alone. Mr. Darnell put in dozens of hours as well as the NPS personnel in preparation for this trial. Each one of the Wrangell-St. Elias personnel receive \$81 per day per diem, \$85 per day for lodging and over \$200 for travel expenses, according to the Park Service Public Information Officer. How many total man-hours were invested in this affair? My guess would be their side cost in excess of \$20,000.

Mr. Frederick told me that his costs were \$11,000 in legal fees so far, over \$2,000 in out of town living expenses, 300 hours of time, untold loss of business as lodge clients stayed away when they assumed he had lost access to his property, personal pain and suffering from the stress of the

citation, the preparation of his defense and the loss of his daughter caused directly by his need to be in Anchorage because of his trial. His monetary costs exceed \$20,000.

So, over \$40,000 dollars later, the trails are exactly as they were when this whole thing started. We now know the cost. On a cost-benefit analysis, what was the benefit?

Was it necessary for the Park Service to take this course to stop Mr. Frederick? We will never know because they tried no other means; no telephone call, no letter, no nothing. According to Mr. Frederick a phone call would have been plenty.

Did this citation return the trail to it original condition? No, the efforts and materials of Frederick et al are still in place, being used by trail users, reducing further erosion.

Was this prosecution necessary to convince others that a permit is needed to work in the park? No, Mr. Sharp could have just told the good folks of the community that they needed a permit when he spoke for an hour and a half back in July, 2002. It doesn't seem likely that the Park Service would spend that kind of dough to back up Mr. Sharp so he could prove his claim to Mr. Frederick that "I've got a lot more push than you've got shove."

Did the Park Service need to take this course in order to recover investigation costs? Not likely. Why spend \$20,000 in the hope of getting a conviction with a maximum penalty of \$5,000?

You decide.

lakes and hills. To these people, prohibiting use of these trails is akin to closing down the streets that get us to Costco and Wal-Mart. So many people showed up that the meeting had to be moved to the school.

Hunter Sharp spoke at that meeting for over an hour and a half. He pointed out that the trails were becoming rutted from excessive use. He told them that the Park Service did not have any money to solve the erosion problems or do any maintenance. The community offered free labor and materials to the Park Service to resolve the erosion problem with the intent of keeping the trails in good repair and open. It seemed like the Park Service was open to the idea.

Some time after the meeting Doug Frederick and a couple of friends took pallets and planking into the park and built a sort of homemade bridge over three wet areas. They took photos and presented them to the Park Service. There were a number of meetings and communications between Frederick and various Park Service supervisors. Frederick got the impression that they liked his proposal until he got the citation, with a potential fine of five thousand dollars and a

prison sentence, for "building a structure within the park without a permit."

The NPS's case against Frederick was simple.

1. Doug built "structures" in the park without a permit.
2. Park code also prohibits work of any sort in the park with-



Photo courtesy Doug Frederick

Helpers work with Frederick on one of the "structures." Frederick was the only person cited.

"Now if Mr. Frederick had done something wrong it would seem to me the neighborly thing to do would be for Mr. Sharp to say, 'Hey, Doug, that's not a bad suggestion there but listen you gotta get a permit.'"—Wayne Anthony Ross.

out a permit

3. Frederick wasn't denying it.
4. They had photos—photos Frederick took himself and gave to them showing the work. Two buddies who helped him were in the photos.
5. Park Service regulations clearly prohibit him from doing what he did.

The defense's case was more obtuse. Yes, Frederick did do erosion mitigation without a permit, but:

1. The bridges are not structures.

2. The Park Service gave Frederick the impression that he could build some proto-type "proposals" in the park to test the viability of the pallet/plank plan.

3. The Park Service likes these structures, uses them and hasn't removed them because they work but still wants to prosecute Frederick for building them without a permit.

4. The Park Service's seemingly tacit approval and encouragement of Mr. Frederick's "proposals" amounted to entrapment.

5. Hunter Sharp has a personal vendetta against Frederick and cited him and not the two others who helped build the bridges.

6. Frederick's daughter was killed in a car accident while on her way to Slana to return Frederick's pick-up so he could come to town to see his attorney about this case.

Joe Darnell's closing arguments had all the conviction of a man dropping off a few suits at

the local dry cleaners. He went down the laundry list of what the regulations said and how Mr. Frederick failed to obey them. "This is not a question of trail stabilization. Mr. Frederick did not have a permit. You don't go off willie nillie and do it without permission. This is a National Park and there are regulations."

Ross's delivery was passionate. His closing arguments painted a picture of a community frustrated by eroding trails, resistive park regulations, and overzealous and vindictive park rangers.

Mr. Ross pled, "Now if Mr. Frederick had done something wrong it would seem to me the neighborly thing to do would be for Mr. Sharp to say, 'Hey, Doug, that's not a bad suggestion there but listen, you gotta get a permit.' Mr. Sharpe didn't do that, he issued the citation. These are your neighbors, these are people that live in the park. They love the park far more than you. You're temporary. They love the park, they've lived there all their lives, and that isn't the way to treat your neighbor—especially a neighbor who's trying to help, who realizes you don't have money for these things, who gets the community together and tries to come up with a solution. That isn't the way to treat him, to haul him into court. That's why the Park Service gets a bad reputation for things like that."

The Judge promised to return a verdict within a week. That was on December 9, 2003. It is much past a week and still no word.

Mr. Fredrick patiently waits.

Is there a pattern?

If we step back and look at the eighty-year history of the National Park Service we will see a pattern. Few have heard of John Oliver or Mrs. Burchfield or Walter Gregory or other multi-generational residents of the small community of Cades Cove, Tennessee. They were some of the first to feel the sting of the government forcing them off their land for the purpose of purging the local residents from the midst of land they wanted to consecrate as a national park. Their land is now a part of the Great Smokey Mountain National Park.

Their story is written about in the book *Cades Cove, A Southern Appalachian Community*, by Durwood Dunn, a professor at the University of Tennessee. In Chapter 10, titled *Death by Eminent Domain*, Professor Dunn describes the heroic battle Mr. Oliver waged in the courts in his effort to resist being extricated from his home which was in his family for four generations. This book is available at the UAA Library and on Amazon.com. They were promised that they could stay and live in their homes and work their land when the park was first proposed but as time went on they were systematically driven out. The National Park Service has used these same methods to frustrate, intimidate and eventually remove the private inholders they want removed in many of our national parks.

Those familiar with what has happened and is happening to inholders and park users in the De-

nali National Park say Wrangell-St. Elias is right on schedule in the Park Service's timeline of changing land use and tightening down on inholders. One simply needs to look at the age of the park to see where it is on the timeline.

Denali National Park was created in 1917, Wrangell-St. Elias in 1980. It is some sixty years younger than Denali, but the Park Service is not like a miner or a homesteader. It does not grow old and die; the leadership just changes hands and continues to march on. Mr. Ross's observation that park employees are only temporary is true when speaking of the individuals. However the Park Service has a life of its own. Born in 1872, with 338 parks under its control, it shows no signs of aging or atrophy.

Individuals like Mr. Frederick actually become tools in the hands of the Park Service. Regardless of how this trial turns out, whether he is found guilty or innocent, the Park Service wins. They have exerted tremendous pain and suffering on Doug and communicated loud and clear to all those watching that they are a force to be reckoned with. Every one on their team goes home, well paid, and never inconvenienced. Mr. Frederick however has suffered incalculable costs. If found guilty his fine will be just another few thousand dollars added to his already twenty thousand dollar loss, not to mention his personal losses. If he wins, he loses, if he loses, he loses.

The preceding are excerpts from a book in progress, An Angel Falls to Heaven, being written by Kurt Stenehjem about his supply flights into Hillbilly Heaven, his week with the Pilgrim Family after the crash of his airplane, his time in McCarthy waiting to recover the wreckage and his musings and observations of the family and the conflict. The book is full of drama, humor, romance, passion and intrigue. Used by Permission. Copyright 2003

Simple misdemeanor charges turn complex

WSEN STAFF

Normally, when the National Park Service (NPS) issues a citation for misdemeanor trespassing and vandalism, the case is pretty straightforward. But it seems that nothing in the continuing relations between the Pilgrim family and their NPS neighbor is uncomplicated.

The latest proceedings in Anchorage federal district court stem from allegations that Joseph Pilgrim attempted to enter the Polk 1601 Adit after the NPS had closed the entrance. Rangers Marshall Neeck and Richard Richotte had been hiding on the mountain after supposedly receiving a “tip” that the Pilgrims might try to enter the adit, the only entrance to their Mother Lode mine. After two and a half days of testimony, Magistrate John D. Roberts gave both sides an additional three weeks to present written closing arguments, saying the trial involves complex issues.

The Pilgrim family had apparently spent a good part of the summer working in the adit, cleaning out snow and ice which accumulates in the tunnels and blocks air circulation needed to keep the historic mine dry to preserve timbering and retard deterioration. They had locked the entrance and posted signs, one of which read “Mother Lode Mine Coalition (a legal, patented right-of-way) Private Entrance, No Trespassing, Violators will be Persecuted.”

On July 1 the Park Service had broken the Pilgrim lock, took down the handmade signs and replaced them with official signs, DANGER - STAY OUT - STAY ALIVE and a Closure Order For All Tunnels in the Kennicott Historic District. They also installed a new chain with an NPS padlock.



Photo courtesy Pilgrim family

The Polk 1601 Adit. The mine entry fills with packed snow and ice and requires periodic maintenance.

Neeck charged that Joseph broke the new chain with a pick on July 15, and damaged and removed the NPS signs. At the heart of the case is whether the Polk 1601 Adit is a legal right-of-way that the Pilgrims have a right to use to access the underground workings of their patented Mother Lode Mine.

A friendly witness for the NPS was Walter Wigger of Fairbanks who sold the property to the Pilgrims in 2002. Wigger had also owned a number of unpatented claims which he donated to the NPS, reportedly in return for a large tax writeoff. One of these claims included the Polk adit entrance located about ½ mile from the Mother Lode property.

The first day Wigger testified that the Pilgrims have no access through the Polk Adit because he donated it to the NPS. But the next day he had to eat his words. He

spent the day before his 85th birthday in the courtroom, looking uncomfortable as Joseph's attorney, Carl Bauman, produced transcripts of prior conversations between Wigger and the Pilgrims in 2002.

Joseph Hale (Pilgrim): “How can we prove that that's our legal access?” (Speaking of the Polk adit).

Walter Wigger: “Well, actually, they, uh, can't stop you. But of course they like to let you know who's in charge. But, if you get a restraining order, there's no way they're gonna close that portal.”

Unknown: “Yeah, that's a good idea.”

Walter Wigger: “And there should be no problems about getting a restraining order. That's what I was gonna do. There's a whole office down there that's all they do is deciding these land laws as a friend to the court.”

Wigger was recently sued by the Pilgrims for lack of performance on their land purchase contract with him.

A key witness for the defense was Ron Simpson. Ron is a familiar figure to *Wrangell St. Elias News* readers, author of the book *Legacy of the Chief* and noted historian on the Kennicott mines. (See *Mining in Miniature—The Mother Lode Upper Camp Model* in the January & February 2003 WSEN.)

According to Simpson, the Polk 1600 level adit is the only practical entrance to the Pilgrim's Mother Lode Mine, and additionally, is the only reasonable access to the Bonanza and Jumbo systems. "The Mother Lode Mine is the only interesting part of the underground system of Kennicott area mines that is left," said Simpson in a telephone interview. "The old lunch room, the stable and the blacksmith's shop are all on the Pilgrim's property," he said.

Professional engineer and land consultant Ray Kreig was also called by the defense as an expert witness. He testified that the original patents support an easement by necessity and they specifically provided for actions by the Alaska legislature to authorize other measures to aid in the full



Photo courtesy Pilgrim family

Job Pilgrim looks on as Ranger Neeck searches brother Joseph's backpack. Joseph had asked Neeck to get a search warrant, but Neeck used a provision in federal law that allows searches without warrants when there is no communication systems available. Locals say there is good phone coverage from the mine entry, but the judge allowed the warrantless search to stand.

development of the granted mineral lands. Alaska statutes list tunnels as structures that can be included in an RS 2477 right-of-way.

Kreig also testified that the public notice of the NPS tunnel closures may have been ineffective because it is not at all clear that the Polk adit lies within the boundaries of the Kennicott National Historic Site.

Finally, Kreig testified about the results of a test in which he recreated the door and log jamb at the mine entrance and reenacted the attempt to break a chain with a pick, as Joseph is accused of doing by Neeck. Kreig said, in his professional opinion, it would be virtually impossible to break the chain in such a manner without doing severe damage to the woodwork. No such damage was present in photos taken after the alleged incident.

The Pilgrim's attorney, Carl Bauman, has said the criminal citations against Joseph and Joshua are improper because the NPS is trying to use the criminal courts to affect disputes that in reality are civil matters

over land status.

Both sides have until the middle of January to present their closing arguments to Judge Roberts who will then render his decision.

"Author Linda Bowles, in her article *Environmental Marxism*, suggests today's land-takeover abuses occur because of limited coverage by the mainstream media rather than 'a fatalistic American submission to state socialism. One fears that only in retrospect, when it is too late to resist, will it be understood that freedoms have been irretrievably forfeited and the Constitution irreversibly abandoned.'—Paula Easley

Local kids make good on field trip

BY TRACI GRESSEL AND RENE WELTY

From October 25-31 local kids, Traci and Carl Gressel, Rene Welty, Tessa Bay, Kelsey Smith and the moms took a school field trip to Valdez. While there they were taught to carve masks by native artist Kathleen. Although none of the students there were as experienced as Kathleen, they did their best. They all came out very well and it was fun to see all the personality of the masks.

They learned how to use clamps, chisels, woodburners, sandpaper, paints, metal, wire, tacks and an assortment of ornaments.

Students also came from Esther Island and Valdez. They all stayed in well-equipped trailers provided by the school. Along with hard work on the masks, they had time to have fun. They went shopping, out to eat, and went trick-or-treating (and got sick on candy!).

One of the biggest highlights of the trip was the beautiful, sunny weather. All in all, it was a great,

educational trip. We are all, however, mostly glad to be home.



A Christmas celebration

BY BONNIE KENYON

McCarthy: – Everyone loves to celebrate something or someone sometime in their lives. The town of McCarthy is no different. So, on Sunday, December 21st, at 6:30 p.m. twenty four people gathered at the McCarthy Kennicott Community Church to celebrate Christmas.

Every holiday has a story behind the occasion and this special holiday came with a story and songs fit for the occasion. Twelve of McCarthy area's young people took turns reading Bible verses that depicted the true reason for the season – the birth of Jesus.

Those who had active parts in the story were: Rene and Sarah Welty; Tyee, Teal and Trae Lohse; Josh Collins; Traci and Carl Gressel; and Kaleb, David, Daniel and Hannah Rowland. Sarah led the audience in the Christmas carols that interspersed the story. Josh is a summer resident of nearby Long Lake. Although he was visiting the Lohse boys for a few days, he willingly participated in the festivities.

Laurie Rowland played keyboard. Lynn Welty helped co-ordinate the young people with their reading parts.

Following the program, bowls of hot chili and corn muffins awaited the attendees in the church basement as well as Christmas cookies, homemade fudge and plenty of holiday cheer

The weather even cooperated by providing a fresh blanket of snow. The young people ate their fill, donned their winter gear and headed outside to culminate the evening with a rousing snowball fight.

Many thanks to those who participated in making this year's Christmas celebration a huge success.

CLASSIFIED

Wanted: 5 to 60 acres in McCarthy area. Contact Ron at (303)940-6539.

Mining news of Nazina district

Editor's note: The following story is reprinted from the February 24, 1912, edition of The Chitina Leader. We thought readers today might be interested in this area history. Note that we now use the spelling Nizina rather than Nazina.

The general public is not familiar with the great amount of exploration and development work that is going on in the interior known as the Copper River country. Many hundreds of men are employed on scores of properties that in time will make big shippers. The impression that the Guggenheims own the only good mine near the railroad is absolutely erroneous. In the course of a year or more it is expected that the number of shipping mines will reach half a dozen or more. Others will follow in due course of time. There are several particular districts where great activity will result this season by reason of the rapid advance in the price of copper and the desire upon the part of Eastern capitalists to become interested in copper properties.

One of the most active sections is that country tributary to the railroad at Mile 191 where McCarthy Creek runs into the Nazina River. Quite a little settlement is already springing up there. The Copper River & Northwestern Railway has established a station and freight house, section house, water tank and turntable. In addition there is a restaurant, bunkhouse, laundry, bathhouse and tobacco store. A half mile beyond is the Blackburn Hotel, managed by the Fagenburg Brothers. They also keep a supply of horses and do the freighting for many of the mining companies. Another road house is also established at this point and is kept by Mr. Bloomquist. At various times mention will be made of the mining work doing or contemplated in the different localities. Today we give an idea of the activity in what may be termed the Nazina district.

The Mother Lode Copper Mines Company has done considerable work on their property on the mountain side across from the Bonanza and located on McCarthy Creek, 14 miles from the railroad at Mile 191. The latest report from New York is that the noted mining expert and engineer, Herman Keller, is to come out this spring and take active hold of the management of the property. The former superintendent, Louis Lavenseller, resigned during the winter.

William Crum is in charge of the property that bears his name and is 22 miles from Mile 191. He has six men at work and expects to make a good showing this summer.

The Bonanza Mining Company is operating about two miles from the railroad at Mile 193. F. A. Iverson is the manager. He has eight men working three shifts and driving 200 feet of tunnel. There is gold porphyry quartz that runs \$60 to the ton.

J. E. Barrett is manager of the Blackburn Mines Ltd. that has headquarters at Mile 191. The property is nearly 12 miles distant on McCarthy Creek. Twelve men have been working in chalcocite ore.

The Houghton-Alaska Development Company has had two men at work doing assessment work on McCarthy Creek, about 14 miles from Mile 191.

At the Nicolai Mine, near the Bonanza, the assessment work was done last season. A watchman is in charge at present but it is reported that extensive work will be started in the spring.

The Westover property, owned by the Alaska United Copper Explo-

ration Co., continuous work has been going on for the past year. During the winter four men have been driving tunnel in rich ore. Over 180 feet of tunnel work has been done, while on the adjoining Golden Eagle group there are 160 feet of tunnel. This property is located on Boulder Creek, two miles from the mouth of Dan Creek. H. D. Foster is the superintendent in charge.

George Max Esterly is making extensive preparations to work his placer property on Chittitu Creek. He will have thirty men at work, and will soon ship in 225 tons of supplies and machinery. Last year he did considerable stripping, and cleaned up about \$75,000 of gold. He expects the output this season to run \$250,000.

In a few days it is expected that G. H. Birch, manager for the Dan Creek Mining Company will return from New York and get things in readiness for active work on their placer property. He is now having his season's supplies of 120 tons hauled from Mile 191 across the Nazina River. Last season he did considerable dead work, put in piping and made preparations to clean up nearly a quarter of a million dollars this season. He will have forty men at work.

The Rex Alaska Mining Company has their outfit of nearly 80 tons already on the ground. Manager E. W. Brooks has about 20 men at work and they will put in ditches and piping, so that everything will be in readiness to take out quantities of placer gold next year. A small quantity will be washed out this season.

The Dan Creek Gold and Copper Company has a copper property at the head of Dan Creek on which they will work twelve men this season. Roads will be built first so as to haul in the machinery. P. D. Range is the superintendent and he has done considerable work during the past several years. He will shortly install an air compressor and four drills.

Fagenberg Brothers have three men at work on their property on Copper Creek. They are running a tunnel that is now 100 feet in. A porphyry dyke that was 18 inches on the surface has widened to two and a half feet, and shows values that vary from \$10 to \$100 per ton.

The Erickson property on Glacier Creek is under option to Cappel, Radcliffe & Co. With five men they have been driving a tunnel this winter which is now in 135 feet. The showing is remarkably good. Dr. Maclaren, of London, an expert of considerable note, made an examination of this property the fore part of February. It is believed that, on his recommendation, a large force of men will be put to work this season. Mr. Radcliffe and other interested parties will come from London this summer to look over the prop-

erty. They are men of large means and it is expected that they will become largely interested in copper properties of the Nazina country.

Stevenson and Diamond, who have been prospecting their property on Young Creek, got a good showing of coarse gold on bed rock.

For several years Frank Kernan has been working his placer properties on Rex and Chittitu creeks with satisfactory results. This year he expects to employ fifteen men.

Chris Tjosevig will work four men this summer on the left arm of the Kennecott Glacier, 18 miles from Mile 191. He has a tunnel 100 feet in high grade copper glance.

It is noted with considerable interest that the Guggenheims are having supplies hauled to the patented ground on Erie and Independence claims, which are a part of the Bonanza group. It is expected that they will soon commence work on a large scale and open up these properties.

When E. F. Gray, of the Great Northern Development Company, was in New York, Boston and Philadelphia last December, he organized the Regal Mining Company with a paid-in capital of \$250,000. They

have a group of 16 copper claims on the Kennecott Glacier. There is a fine outcrop that Mr. Gray will sink on. He will follow the ore body and expects to make a rich showing with the 70 men that he will have at work this summer. If he can put it on a shipping basis he will build a tram from the mine to the surface of the glacier. From there he will haul the ore on motor trucks to the railroad that will be extended about a mile from its present terminus at Mile 196.

The Bloomquist and Barrett property on Porphyry Mountain will soon have six men at work on it.

The Kennecott Mines Company is now employing 172 men on their Bonanza property, under the supervision of Manager Seagrave. The new superintendent of the mill, Mr. Cox, reports that he expects to have the concentrator in operation by April, when at least a hundred more men will be given employment.

A loggers' camp has been established at Long Lake, where ten men are now at work cutting and loading logs on the cars for Kennecott.

A daily train service is maintained between Chitina and Kennecott.

Residents of the Wrangells meet in McCarthy

BY BONNIE KENYON

McCarthy: – On December 11th ten local area members of the Residents of the Wrangells (ROW) held a meeting at the McCarthy Kennecott Community Church. The purpose of the meeting was to provide structure within the group.

Susan Smith of Mile 27 McCarthy Road remains ROW's Chairperson; Jenny Rosenbaum of Long Lake is Secretary; Carole Morrison from Crystal Creek is Treasurer.

A six-person advisory committee was chosen to aid in the decision making process. The committee consists of Daniel and Carole Morrison, Keith and Laurie Rowland and Rick and Bonnie Kenyon.

One of the top priorities of the organization is the collection of testimonials from those within the boundary of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve who are experiencing current and tangible problems in their dealings with the Park Service. The examples will then

be turned over to Senator Lisa Murkowski's office who is offering to help solve these issues.

If anyone has information to submit, you may contact Susan Smith at 907-259-3265 or Jenny Rosenbaum at ROW's email address residentsofwrangells@yahoo.com.

A tentative meeting in the Slana area is scheduled for Friday, January 23rd and one in Tok on Saturday, January 24th. Please contact Susan Smith at 259-3265 for final updates on the meeting.

Clifford Wilhite Collins

1911-2003

Pioneer Alaskan Clifford W. "Ampa" Collins was born on February 21, 1911, in Emporia, Kansas. On November 1, 2003, at his home in Cordova and with his wife Jewel at his side, Cliff, 92, exchanged this life for his new home in Heaven.

Cliff graduated from Emporia High School with honors in 1929, and then attended Kansas State College majoring in Business Administration. After starting a real estate business in 1932, he met Jewel Fisher and they were married January 29, 1933. They moved to Pocatello, Idaho, with three-year old son, Phillip, in 1937. March 1939 found the family of three arriving in Cordova, Alaska, on the steamship "S. S. Yukon." From 1941 through 1947 their livelihood was met by commercial fishing. Later they operated Collins Jewelry and Photocraft Store until the disastrous city fire in 1963. Cliff then went into the insurance business and remained until retirement.

Early in their Alaska history, aviation became very important to

the Collins' family. An Aeronca Champ gave them their first taste of the Great Land but a PA-14 on wheels, skis and floats became Cliff's preferred tool by which he and his family enjoyed access to Alaska and the beauty of flying. This brought Cliff and Jewel to a homestead in the Chitina valley on Long Lake. Even while working the insurance business, being active in Masonic Lodge and Eastern Star, flying search and rescue missions for the Alaska Civil Air Patrol and handling the CAP radio traffic, Cliff and Jewel found time to clear land and build a summer home in one of the most beautiful places in Alaska. The Long Lake homestead continued to be Cliff's pride and joy into the fall of 2003. Cliff enjoyed gardening, banding swallows, hunting, fishing, tending a salmon weir, and being very active all through his 80's and into his 91st year.

Cliff has left a blessed heritage for his many friends. As was read by long-time friend Steve Alexander at a memorial service held on November 7th at Cordova Community Baptist church: A factual history of Cliff

Collins, our friend and "Ampa," may not be long remembered in the course of this world, but, like his new life in Heaven, our appreciation of and gratefulness for our time with him is eternal.

The family said of Cliff: It's hard to put a finger on what made "Ampa" such a unique individual. His smile, generosity and hospitality were legendary. There was just something about him, and those whose lives he touched are forever enriched.

Cliff is survived by his wife of 70 years, Jewel; son and daughter-in-law, Philip and Carolyn Collins – all residing in Cordova; granddaughter, Karen and husband Cary Strahan of Wasilla; grandson, Mike Collins and his wife Kari of Big Lake; and great-grandson, Josh Collins, 16; great-granddaughters, Sharayah Dollente, 12, and Faith Collins, 16 months.

A second memorial service will be May 30 at the family's summer home at Long Lake during the 41st annual Collins' Memorial Day Fly-In Breakfast.

Posthumous Award honors Cliff Collins

Phillip Collins, son of Cliff Collins, was recently contacted by the National Park Service that his father has been chosen for the 2003 Excellence Award for Conservation Leadership.

The nomination was submitted by Devi Sharp, Chief of Resources for the Wrangell-St. Elias Park and Preserve. The following is a paraphrase of her nomination: This is a posthumous nomination for a conservation award to a man with a great vision for conservation of nat-

ural resources. Wrangell-St. Elias National Park has the good fortune to have the Collins' family as neighbors and partners in conserving the natural resources for future generations. The Collins' family owns 160 acres of land within Wrangell-St. Elias National Park adjacent to Long Lake on the McCarthy Road. Cliff Collins recognized the value of the Lake property and during the 40 some years that he owned the property he walked away from several offers to purchase the land for commercial development. It is not that

his family did not need the money; he did not feel that the value of the land could be expressed in dollars and that the highest value was for conservation for the fish and wildlife that the lake and land supported. Cliff put the land in a conservation land trust that states that none of the land may be sold until 99 years after his death.

The award will be presented at a ceremony in Anchorage at the NPS Regional Office, 240 West 5th Avenue on January 8 at 11:30 a.m.

THE CHITINA LEADER

January 1912 February

The Copper River & Northwestern Railway company has issued a circular letter signed by J. H. Young, vice president, announcing the fact that Mr. E. C. Hawkins has resigned and the office of the Chief Engineer and General Manager is abolished. All officers and employees of the company stationed in Alaska heretofore reporting to Mr. Hawkins will hereafter report to Superintendent George Geiger at Cordova.

A new local freight tariff went into effect on the Copper River & Northwestern Railway January 1 naming the ton rates on hay and grain from Chitina to points east as follows: To Kotsina, \$5; Strelina, \$5; McCarthy, \$12; and Kennecott, \$13.50.

January 13

NEW ROTARY IS ORDERED

Seattle, January 17. The officials of the Copper River & Northwestern Railway announce that the company has ordered by telegraph a snow rotary engine similar to the large one now used on the line out of Cordova. The order was placed in Philadelphia with instructions to make immediate shipment regardless of expense. President Young believes delivery will be made here inside of a month and it will then be rushed to Cordova.

Every possible effort is to be made to avoid any further delays or blockades this winter. It is thought with two big rotary engines and one small one, there will be no

trouble in keeping the road clear of snow. The force of men will be increased before the spring thaw, in order to render prompt assistance in case of unusual conditions.

LOCAL BRIEFS

The potlatch at Taral was largely attended by Chitinaites last week and quite a number went up to Camp Comfort to a similar event. The dog teams in town were used as conveyances.

Dr. Thom has secured an interest in the Erickson group of quartz claims on O'Brien Creek and promises that active operations will begin in the spring looking toward the development of what is believed to be to the best gold prospect in this part of Alaska. A fifty foot tunnel shows a widening of the vein from six to twelve feet and the ore shows richer values. Already more than two thousand tons of ore is exposed which assays about \$12.

The opening up of this property which is only four miles from the railroad will not only benefit the owners but will help all of Chitina. Let all possible business come this way; we can handle it.

The accident to the snow plow which tied up the road for nearly two weeks and resulted in the death of Engineer Reed nearly caused a famine along the entire line. In Chitina the fresh meat supply was quickly absorbed, the oil and vegetable market exhausted while the staples moved with surpris-

ing rapidity, still no one who had any fore thought had reason to fear hunger and much credit is due our merchants who continued to supply their customers at the old prices so long as stocks held out. For fair and equitable dealing Chitina merchants can not be beaten no matter where you go.

John Neagle, cashier of the Great Northern Development Company at Copper Mountain who was severely injured in the recent snow slide, was discharged from the hospital on New Year's Day, and immediately resumed his duties at the mine.

January 20

LOCAL BRIEFS

The contract for building the Chitina schoolhouse was let on Monday evening to P. T. Shaw who was the lowest bidder, his bid being \$200 for the work. The lumber is all on the ground and the work of erection will be pushed to completion and school will begin not later than Feb. 1st. Mrs. Schuapp who was engaged to teach the first school has resigned and negotiations are under way to bring a teacher from Cordova.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Solomon have moved into the Reider cabin on Chitina heights.

Bob McIntosh went down to Tiekell with six horses and a double ender on a special train to haul coal to the snow plow which was stranded for want of fuel at Mile 93.

The body of Engineer Reed was recovered Tuesday from the wreck at Mile 78 and taken to Cordova from where it will be shipped to Seattle. Much credit is due Jess Forrester and the men under him who worked so faithfully against great odds until the task was accomplished. The wrecked rotary had to be thawed loose before it could be lifted from the body which was pinned underneath in about 3 feet of water.

CHITINA TOWNSITE REORGANIZED

The townsite company at Chitina has been re-organized and will hereafter be known as the Chitina Townsite company.

The officers are J. H. Young, president; George Geiger, vice president; W. T. Ford, secretary and treasurer. The trustees are J. H. Young, W. T. Ford and C. A. McMasters.

It will be the purpose of the company to sell the lots on easy terms. Application will be made to William Lawson, the station agent at Chitina, and he will forward the same to George Geiger at Cordova, who will issue the deed. Those in Cordova wishing to purchase can apply to Mr. Geiger.

The company intends to sell lots on terms easy enough for anyone to secure a lot. From \$25, \$50 or \$100 down according to the value of the lot and from \$5 to \$20 per month, will form a basis for the terms to be arranged. While plans as to

all the details have not as yet fully matured, it can be stated in advance that the one aim of the company will be to assist the property owners of Chitina in making that place a town. Unfortunately, in the past there has not been a spirit of harmony and co-operation between the residents and the townsite company.

The officers of the re-organized company believe that Chitina has a future; that it will become an important supply point for interior trade, and they want to see it grow into a modern and enterprising municipality.

It is reported that Frank Iverson has struck a very rich vein on his property near McCarthy.

January 27

MINING NEWS COPPER LAND

McCarthy Creek, Feb. 11. Escalata, the wise old Indian, has promised the freighters a month's cooler weather now and the chances seem good for those handling heavy outfits up the Nazina. From now until the close of the season, there will be much activity in that line.

The tunnel on the property of the Bonanza Gold Mining Company is in about 150 feet. It is being driven to cross cut the main vein and it will likely be tapped in a few feet further. It is 2,800 feet from the tunnel to where the railway will have switches. There is an abundance of timber nearby for the mine and the outlook seems good. Mr. Iverson will make a shipment to the smelter, taking the ore down from the mine with double enders.

Malcolm Maclaren, the celebrated London expert,

who represents the great Fingal Mining Company, in company with George Cappel, has been across the Nazina and up to the Erickson property on Glacier Creek. A winter trail has been constructed up the Chittistone and Glacier Creek to the property, and the tunnel is being rushed. Mr. Maclaren has visited nearly all the great camps in the world and proved himself a great entertainer while in camp. Al Chursh returned from Chitina with his bride and was given a royal reception. The entire evening was spent in entertaining and many were the good wishes extended.

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Barrett have returned and are cozily located in their cabin on McCarthy Creek. Peter Johnson's building is nearing completion.

MINING ACTIVITY NEAR KENNECOTT

There will be considerable mining activity in the Kennecott district during the coming summer, according to John Bloomquist, of the Bonanza Gold Mining Company, who is enthusiastic over the future of this section not alone as a famous copper producer, but for its gold mining possibilities. The company, of which he is the president, owns eleven claims on the Kennecott and is now working five men developing the property. They expect to make a shipment of sampled ore before the snow leaves the ground next spring. The property is only one and one half miles from the railroad and a wagon road was built last summer.

He states that they now have a tunnel in 160 feet and expect to tap the ledge in a few days as there was only 20 feet further to drift. The tunnel will tap the ledge giving a

depth of 120 feet below the surface outcrop. There are two ledges on the property and the tunnel will tap the point where they intersect. The surface showing on the ledge above the tunnel is 12 feet wide and carries good values in tellurium and libanite.

Mr. Blomquist states the weather in the interior has been remarkably mild. He reports that the rivers give indications of breaking up early and that the snow on the mountains at an altitude of 2,600 feet is beginning to melt. River travel would have been impossible at any time during the winter. Mr. Blomquist does not know how to account for it, but says it is puzzling all the old timers.

Cappel, Radcliffe & Co. representing English capital, has bonded 11 claims known as the Extension of the Bonanza Gold Mines. The bond called for \$9,000 cost payment and 45 per cent of the stock. They will continue development at an early date.

Mr. Blomquist states it is reported that the Kennecott Mines Company will put in an electric power plant on McCarthy Creek, a distance of about six miles from the mines. The wires will have to pass near McCarthy and the citizens of that place are rejoicing over the prospect of having electric lights and power for their town. One year ago McCarthy was represented by a lone cabin, and there are now two stores, two roadhouses, a laundry and eight other buildings. Eight women and four children give a touch of civilization to the place.

Mr. Blomquist says four hydraulic plants will be in operation in that district next summer. Steve Birch's plant is now being freighted

in to Dan Creek. The Brooks outfit is being freighted to Rex Creek, and it is reported that George Esterly will take a big plant in to replace the one moved from the Chittitu to Rex Creek last fall.

February 17

CHITINA'S PUBLIC SCHOOL NOW RUNNING SMOOTHLY

School has been in session now for over two weeks. Chitina has a school of which she may well be proud, and the school board deserves much credit for the building erected with the limited funds available. They have gotten as much as possible for every dollar spent, and have given generously of their time and labor. They were fortunate in securing the services of Mr. Shaw, who had the contract for putting up the building. He bid the job at a very low figure, knowing the limited funds available and also to show his ability, which no one who has seen his work will question. The building is 36x20 feet and well furnished. The furnishings, which include a bell for the cupola, are expected soon.

Miss Nickell is teaching the school. The respect and affection that her pupils have for her and the program they make speak much for her ability. Among those enrolled are Anne Heney, Fred Kingston, Charlie Johnson, Eugene Tibbs.

O. A. NELSON IS CHARGE OF LEADER

The proprietors of the Chitina Leader announce the appointment of O. A. Nelson to look after the local and business affairs of The Leader at Chitina and in the Copper River country.

February 24

The Wanderings of the Magnetic North Pole

One of the prettiest places in Southeast Alaska has experienced some of nature's most violent behavior.

Lituya Bay, on the Pacific coast about 100 miles southeast of Yakutat and 40 miles west of Glacier Bay, is the site of the largest splash wave ever recorded. In 1958, a magnitude 8.3 earthquake triggered a tremendous landslide into the ocean. The wave that followed reached 1,740 feet above sea level on a hill opposite the slide. The slide also triggered a wave more than 100 feet high that raced down the bay. Neil Davis, a Fairbanks author, geophysicist, and emeritus professor at the Geophysical Institute of the University of Alaska Fairbanks, flew over Lituya Bay in a Super Cub two days after the earthquake. "When I got there, it was a truly amazing sight," Davis said. "The bay was filled with icebergs and trees, and there was a tongue of trees and ice going out to sea outside the bay."

Seven miles long, two miles wide, and shaped like a "T," Lituya Bay is the only refuge for boats along a 100-mile stretch along the Southeast coast. The bay, carved by a glacier and nestled within the snow-covered Fairweather Range, inspired French explorer J. F. La Perouse to name it "Port of France" in 1798.

La Perouse soon witnessed its dark side. The extreme tidal current at the narrow mouth of the bay killed 21 of his men as they explored in small boats. The current at the bay entrance reaches about 14 miles per hour, twice as fast as the Yukon River at Eagle. After a futile search for bodies, La Perouse named the only island within the bay "Cenotaph," meaning "empty tomb."

The shallow entrance to the bay was the most predictable hazard at Lituya Bay, but the absence of Native villages within the bay and distinct lines on hillsides that separated old trees from newer growth hinted at the other. The inland part of the bay lies dead on the Fairweather fault, a weak section of Earth's crust, which, like the San Andreas fault, causes earthquakes when it fails and slips from side to side.

The 1958 earthquake shook loose millions of cubic yards of dirt and rocks from a 40-degree slope in the northeast corner of the bay. The rock mass displaced a large body of water, causing both the splash wave that rose to 1,740 feet and a gravity wave that was 150 feet high at the head of the bay. The waves sheared and stripped the bark from thousands of trees, some of them four feet in diameter. The late geologist Don Miller flew over Lituya Bay 12

hours after the earthquake. Miller later interviewed the captains of two of three trolling boats anchored in Lituya Bay at the time of the earthquake. He described their experiences in the USGS publication, "The Giant Waves of Lituya Bay."

The wave sunk one boat near the entrance to the bay, killing a husband and wife. A second boat in mid-bay survived the wave by riding over its crest. Moving about 100 miles per hour, the giant wave carried the third boat over La Chaussee Spit and into the open ocean. The captain recalled riding the wave "like a surfboard" and looking down on trees of the spit as the wave carried him 80 feet above. The captain and his wife survived the trip outside the bay, but their boat did not.

The July earthquake in 1958 was not the first time a giant wave had raced through Lituya Bay. Miller dated the trim lines on the hills and confirmed witnesses accounts of a several giant waves in 1936, and also found evidence of similar waves in the 1850s and 1874. Despite the bay's violent history, Miller didn't discourage people from visiting there. He estimated the odds of a giant wave occurring in Lituya Bay on any given day as 9,000 to 1.

Magnetic North Pole Remains Elusive

True north and magnetic north are the same in some parts of the world, but not in Alaska. Compass users in the north need to readjust them every few years for declination, the difference between true and magnetic north, because of the extreme effects of Earth's magnetism at high latitudes.

Bill Worthington, a geophysicist who works for the U.S. Geological Survey in Fairbanks, knows more about magnetic declination than most people. He oversees the College Magnetic Observatory, home to a few instruments that are about 1,000 times more sensitive to Earth's magnetic field than a handheld compass.

Worthington recently invited me out to the observatory, which sits in a circular clearing of 46 acres on the wooded campus of the University of Alaska Fairbanks. The USGS formerly housed its sensitive instruments in buildings closer to the core of campus, but the steel in the chassis and engines of large vehicles passing by caused disturbances in magnetic field readings,

inspiring the move to its more remote location.

Worthington gave me a tour of two wooden buildings held together with copper nails so as not to affect the magnetometers, instruments that measure Earth's magnetic field. Earth acts like a giant magnet because of its core, which resembles a ball of molten iron and nickel slightly smaller than the moon. When the core rotates, the motion of molten iron and nickel produces an electric current, and with it a magnetic force.

If a person stood on the magnetic north pole and tilted his or her compass vertical, its needle would point straight down. He or she would also need to be dressed in warm but breathable clothing, because the magnetic north pole is as far north as its name suggests, and it is always on the move.

The magnetic pole migrates about 10 kilometers northwest each year, and it has strayed around the

north for thousands of years, at one point dropping to the latitude of Anchorage. When Canadian scientists flew onto the sea ice to locate the magnetic north pole in 2001, they found it at latitude 81.3° north and longitude 110.8° west, about 155 miles north of Ellef Ringnes Island.

Magnetic north is hard to pin down, sometimes moving up to 50 miles each day due to the effects of the solar wind, particles from the sun that also produce the aurora. True or geographic north, the northern point of Earth's axis, is always faithful to its name. The north on U.S. topographic maps is true north.

To make compasses useful, people need to adjust them for declination, the difference between magnetic and true north. Global positioning system receivers calculate declination automatically from models based on satellite data and information from magnetic observa-

tories, such as the College Magnetic Observatory. For those who prefer the old-fashioned compass, USGS maps list the declination at the time they were made and conversions for years following, but the math can get clunky.

"If you have a map produced in the 1960s, there's been 40 years (of magnetic north's) movement since then," Worthington said. "That's a lot of extrapolation."

An easier way to find your declination is to go to the USGS website at <http://geomag.usgs.gov/> and plug in your latitude, longitude, and the date. I've saved you the trouble for some Alaska locations: The declination in Fairbanks is about 24 degrees east, Anchorage is 21, Tok is 25, Ketchikan is 23, Kodiak is 19, Nome is 14, and Attu is 8. These numbers are good for 2003, but the wandering of the magnetic north pole assures they won't be in a decade.

This column is provided as a public service by the Geophysical Institute, University of Alaska Fairbanks, in cooperation with the UAF research community. Ned Rozell is a science writer at the institute. He can be reached by email at nrozell@dino.gi.alaska.edu.

Found—Crystalline Hills Trail

BY SUSAN SMITH

With all of the recent talk of trails along the McCarthy Road, I began looking for the new Crystalline Hills Trail constructed by the National Park Service (NPS) in 2002. I knew it had to be on the north side of the road and that it was somewhere around Moose Lake, but I was never able to find it. I asked some of my neighbors and they weren't sure exactly where it was either. So, on my way to Glennallen one day, I stopped by the NPS visitor center in Copper Center and found a handout about the trail.

The next day, my neighbor and I set out to find it. And, at milepost 34.8, we finally did. The Department

of Transportation and Public Facilities created a new parking spot on the McCarthy Road in front of the trailhead this summer. I have heard that the trail wasn't ostensibly marked at the road when it was created because parking was unavailable. There is a wooden trail marker on a tree just after you start in, but it's hard to see from the road.

The P-shaped, 2.5 mile trail has a moderate difficulty rating, with a gradual, uphill climb to an outstanding view. Users are asked to pack out all food and garbage to avoid attracting bears to the area, and to avoid feeding birds, squirrels, or other animals they may encounter. The only potential hazard mentioned is contact with bears or

moose.

Nothing in the trail handout prohibits off-road motor vehicles for subsistence use. We walked a short way in and found no posted signs, either. But, the narrowness of the trail seems to prohibit AW or snow-machine use and the handout mentions only hiking.

So, the next time you travel along the McCarthy Road, stop at milepost 34.8 and check out our new trail. Perhaps now that adequate parking exists, NPS will move the trail head sign to the edge of the road so that all residents and visitors can easily find it.

Museum's caretaker cabin nears completion

BY RICK KENYON

Thanks to a grant from the Rasmuson Foundation, the "caretaker's cabin" project that was started three years ago is nearing completion.

At the board meeting of the McCarthy-Kennicott Historical Museum held last July 4, members voted to accept a bid by local contractor John Adams (McCarthy Building Services) to complete the project.

The building is a one-room log cabin with dimensions of 12 X 18 feet. There is also a small storage loft.

John was able to complete the walls and put the roof on before the snow fell this fall. Since then he has finished the interior and installed the windows and doors, with help from son Adam.



According to John, the only thing the cabin needs now are furnishings, and a caretaker! If you know of anyone who might be inter-

ested in the job for this next summer please contact Meg Hunt at (907)554-4408 or Mihunt@aol.com.

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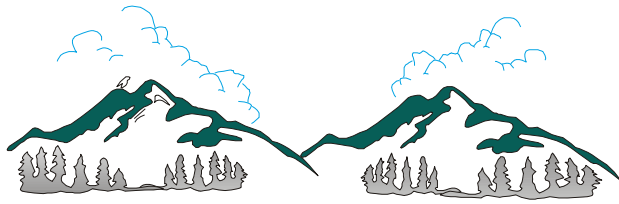
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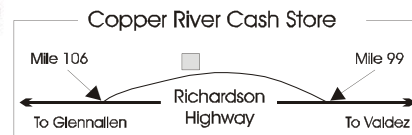
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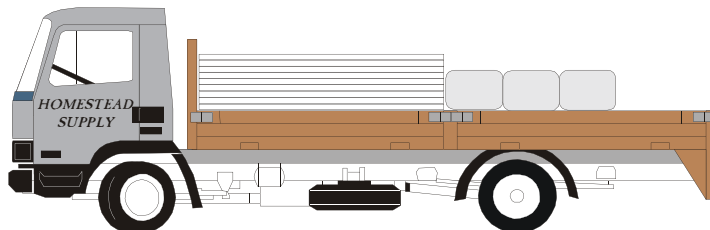


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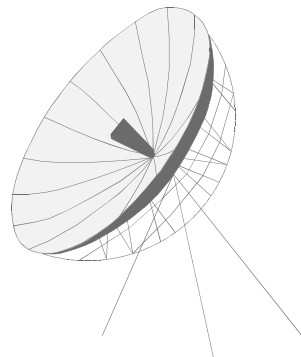
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Alaska National Parks Seeking Public Comment

Alaska's National Parks are inviting comment on each park's Compendium. The Compendium is a compilation of all designations, closures and restrictions imposed under discretionary authority within the regulations covering national parks. The Compendium, as part of the park-related regulations, helps provide for the use, enjoyment and protection of Alaska's National Parks.

A copy of each park's proposed compendium for the 2004 season is available by writing the park or at www.nps.gov/akso/compendium. The park addresses are as follows:

Wrangell-St. Elias N.P.
Attention: Compendium
P.O. Box 439
Copper Center, AK 99573

Lake Clark/Katmai/Alagnak N.P.
Attention: Compendium
4230 University Dr., #311
Anchorage, AK 99508

Kenai Fjords N.P.
Attention: Compendium
P.O. Box 1727
Seward, AK 99664

Sitka NHP
Attention: Compendium
103 Monastery Street
Sitka, AK 99835

Denali N.P.
Attention: Compendium
P.O. Box 9
Denali Park, Alaska 99755

Western Arctic Parklands
Attention: Compendium
P.O. Box 1029
Kotzebue, AK 99752

Klondike Gold Rush NHP
Attention: Compendium
P.O. Box 517
Skagway, AK 99840

Gates of the Arctic/
Yukon-Charley Rivers
Attention: Compendium
201 First Avenue
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Glacier Bay N.P.
Attention: Compendium
P.O. Box 140
Gustavus, AK 99826

Comments will be accepted by mail or e-mail between January 1 and February 15. Comments are welcome at any time in addition to this timeframe, but comments received after February 15 will be considered in future compendium revisions.

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Division of Mining, Land & Water

Public Notice Under AS 38.05.295

ILMA – ADL 228606

McCarthy Area

In accordance with AS 38.05.295 the Division of Mining, Land & Water proposes to issue an Interagency Land Management Agreement (ILMA) contract to The Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry. The land will be used to build a Public Education and Prevention Center, including a demonstration forest, that would be used to illustrate the effects of different thinning practices and defensible space. The proposed location consists of a 5 acre site within NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 28, Township 5 South, Range 13 East, Copper River Meridian, Alaska. It is $\frac{1}{2}$ mile west of Swift Creek; about 3.7 miles west of McCarthy.

The public is invited to comment on the proposed ILMA. Copies of the preliminary decision are available from the Division of Mining, Land & Water, Southcentral Region, 550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 900c, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3577. Written comments, objections, or expressions of interest must be received by email, fax, or postal mail at the Division of Mining, Land & Water at the above address, **before 5:00 pm, Thursday January 29th, 2004**. For questions, contact Darcy B. Harris at (907) 269-8116.

If public comments result in significant changes to the preliminary decision, additional public notice will be given. If there are no significant changes, the final decision will be issued without further notice. In this case, the final decision will be available at the above address on or about **February 10, 2004** and will be subject to appeal within 30 days under 11 AAC 02.040 eligible to appeal under AS 38.05.035(i)-(j), a person must submit written comments during this comment period. If you have any questions regarding the ILMA contract, please contact Darcy Bromley Harris, at telephone (907) 269-8116, fax (907) 269-8913, or e-mail Darcy_Harris@dnr.state.ak.us.

The State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land & Water complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aids, services, or special modifications to participate in this review may contact the Department's Public Information Center between 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday – Friday at TDD (907) 269-8411.

The Division of Mining, Land & Water reserves the right to waive technical defects in this publication.

/S/ Richard Thompson
Regional Manager

PUBLIC NOTICE

Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Division of Mining, Land and Water (DMLW)
McCarthy, Alaska

The following project is proposed in your area and is being reviewed for a private easement requested by Keith Rowland. Your comments, objections or expressions of interest are requested and must be received by **5:00 p.m. on January 29, 2004.**

PROPOSED PROJECT & LOCATION: The project being reviewed with this notice is for the construction of a temporary 180 ft. railcar service bridge, with one center pile and short piles on either end of the bridge on the Kennicott River bank. The project is located within Section 24, Township 5 South, Range 13 East, Copper River Meridian, Alaska. It is on private property owned by Mr. Keith Rowland.

Mr. Rowland proposes that in order to recoup his costs he will implement an annual user fee for residents, businesses, and government entities desiring to use the bridge. The bridge is not intended for public use. There will be a locked gate on a private access road to the bridge that may only be opened by user permit holders.

APPLICANT/AGENT: Keith Rowland dba ROWCON Services

FILE NUMBER: Easement Application ADL 228626– Kennicott River Service Bridge

DEADLINE FOR WRITTEN COMMENTS: 5:00 p.m., January 29, 2004

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SUBMIT COMMENTS CONTACT:

DNR Division of Mining, Land and Water
550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 900 C
Anchorage, AK 99501-3577

Contact: Darcy Bromley Harris
Phone: 907-269-8116
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/s/ Richard B. Thompson, Southcentral Regional Manager

Published December 31, 2003 in the Anchorage Daily News, and the Wrangell St. Elias News

Cooking with Peggy

BY PEGGY GUNTIS

Jim and I love meatloaf! I like the cold leftovers for sandwiches but he likes it hot. The Sweet and Sour Meatloaf I tried for the first time in McCarthy this summer, and it will now go in with my list of favorite meatloaf recipes. All three of these recipes happen to have come from various *Taste of Home* cookbooks. I don't do much inventing but love to try the recipes of others!

Sweet and Sour Meatloaf

- 1 egg
- 5 T. ketchup (divided)
- 2 T. prepared mustard
- ½ c. dry bread crumbs
- 2 T. onion soup mix
- ¼ tsp. salt
- ¼ tsp. pepper
- 1 lb. ground beef
- ¼ c. sugar
- 2 T. brown sugar
- 2 T. cider vinegar

In a bowl, slightly beat the egg. Add 2 T. ketchup, the mustard, bread crumbs, dry soup mix, salt and pepper. Crumble beef over mixture and mix well. Shape into an oval loaf.

Place in a shallow 1 qt. microwave-safe dish; cover with waxed paper. Microwave on high for 11-12 min. or until meat is no longer pink, rotating a half turn once; drain. (I do this in a 350 degree oven instead until I think it's done).

In a small bowl, combine the sugars, vinegar and remaining ketchup; drizzle over loaf. Cover and micro on high 3-5 min. (Or in oven for 5 - 10). Let stand 10 min. before slicing.

Cheeseburger Meat Loaf

- ½ c. ketchup (divided)
- 1 egg
- ¼ c. dry bread crumbs
- 1 tsp. onion powder (if you decide to use fresh onions, really mince them or the loaf isn't the right consistency—learned by experience!)
- 1 lb. lean ground beef
- 2 tsp. prepared mustard
- 2 tsp. dill pickle relish (I use sweet)
- 6 slices processed American cheese (I used 6 oz. Velveeta, reg. or light)

In a bowl, combine ¼ c. ketchup, an egg, bread crumbs and onion powder. Crumble beef over mixture and mix well. On a piece of foil or waxed paper, pat the beef mixture into a 10 X 6-in. rectangle. Spread the remaining ketchup over the meat to within ½ in. of the long sides and 1 ½ in. of short sides. Top with mustard and relish. Place four cheese slices on top of that and set the remaining cheese aside. Roll up the loaf, jelly roll style, starting with a short side and pulling away the waxed paper while rolling. Seal the seams and ends well. Place the loaf, seam side down in a greased 11 X 7-in. baking pan.

Bake at 350 degrees for 45 min. or until meat is no longer pink (160 degrees). Cut the reserved cheese slices in half diagonally; place them on top of the loaf. Return to the oven for about 5 min. or until cheese is melted. Let stand 10 min. before slicing.

The first time I bit into this one I honestly felt like I was eating a cheeseburger—which I love by the way!

Turkey Meat Loaf

Jim loved this one with corn on the cob and a cauliflower casserole I bake.

Actually the first time I made this recipe I only had about 2 ¼ lbs. of ground turkey so I added a couple of the Gardenburger brand of veggieburgers and we loved it so just experiment with what you have.

Enjoy!

- 1 medium onion, finely chopped
- 1 T. canola oil
- 2 eggs (I used egg substitute)
- ½ cup 2% milk (I used fat free but any would work)
- 2 tsps. lemon juice
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. dried basil
- ½ tsp. dried oregano
- ½ tsp. pepper
- 2 c. soft whole wheat bread crumbs (about 5 slices)
- 1 pkg. (10 oz.) frozen chopped spinach, thawed and squeezed dry.
- 2-½ lbs. ground turkey
- ½ c. salsa
- 1 T. butter or stick margarine, melted.

In a skillet, saute onion in oil until tender and set aside. In a bowl combine eggs, milk, lemon juice, salt, basil, oregano and pepper. Add the bread crumbs, spinach and reserved onion; stir to combine.

Crumble turkey over mixture and mix until blended. Shape into a 12 X 5-in. loaf. Place in 13 X 9-in. baking dish coated with non-stick cooking spray. Spoon salsa over the top. Bake, uncovered at 350 degrees for 30 min. Drizzle with butter. Bake 30 - 35 minutes longer or until meat thermometer reads 165.

A LOOK AT THE WEATHER

BY GEORGE CEBULA

October 2003 was rather warm and dry with a little bit of snow.

The average temperature for October was 32.0 (36.6 in Oct. '02 and 25.6 in Oct. '01). This was about 6 degrees above normal. The high was 75 on October 2nd (55 on Oct. 1, '02 and 53 on Oct. 9, '01). This was a new record for October ('68-'03). The old record was 69 on October 6 & 7, '69. The low was 0 on October 31st (14 on Oct. 27, '02 and -15 on Oct. 27, '01). There were 11 days with the low 10 or lower and 3 days with the high of 60 or above. *This compares with Silver Lake's average temperature of 32.6 (38.6 in Oct. '02 and 26.9.4 in Oct. '01). The high at Silver Lake was 70 on October 3rd (56 on Oct. 15, '02 and 58 on Oct. 5, '01) and their low was 5 on October 31st (21 on Oct. 10, '02 and -6 on Oct. 26, '01). Silver Lake had 6 days with the 10 or lower and 3 days with a high of 60 or above.*

The total liquid precipitation was 0.61 inches (3.26 in Oct. '02 and 1.26 in Oct. '01). About half of

the precipitation fell as melted snow, with a total snowfall in October of only 3.5 inches (0.3 in Oct. '02 and 15.1 in Oct. '01). *Silver Lake had 0.67 inches of liquid (2.44 in Oct. '02 and 0.78 in Oct. '01) and 1.0 inches of snow (0 in Oct. '02 and 8.0 in Oct. '01).*

The snow depth at McCarthy was 1 inch on October 23rd and 24th and then remained only a trace for the rest of the month. Silver Lake had 1 inch on October 25th and it quickly melted. *Silver Lake saw the first ice begin to form on October 29th (no ice Oct. '02 and Oct. 26, '01).*

The first half of November saw average temperatures and plenty of snow. The data for the second half will be missing as the station will be closed until December 5.

Here are a few totals as of November 19. The high was 42 on November 9th and the low was -34 on November 19th. Liquid precipitation was 1.68 inches with 20.1 inches of snow. There was 12 inches of snow on ground, down from 16 inches on November 15th. The Kennicott River was completely covered with



ice on the morning of November 19th. John Adams was the first to successfully cross the river on a snow machine on November 16th. I'll do my best to summarize November in the next issue

December and January are usually the coldest months with lows falling to -50 and colder.

Daylight is down to just under 5 hours by December 21, before it begins to increase again.

If anyone see a gray and red suburban with an Alaskan plate "CEBULA" in your area, please flag us down. Sophie and I will be traveling around the lower 48 for the next two months.

*Rick & Bonnie wish you all a
Happy New Year.
We pray that
2004
be your best yet!*

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

If Pilgrims lose land to park, we all do

PAULA EASLEY
COMMENT

There is legitimate confusion over events surrounding a family's run-in with officials in Wrangell-St. Elias Park. Press reports have focused on the Pilgrim family's colorful background, deflecting attention from the compelling issue of access to private property in the parks. Without some basic knowledge of ANILCA, the law that created Alaska's conservation units, the publicity can be misinterpreted, obscuring the historic significance of the situation.

A long drive to Glennallen and McCarthy and conversations with residents helped clarify the picture for me. About 75 people gathered in Glennallen for a meeting of Residents of the Wrangells to pursue solutions to "access and other problems continuously encountered with the National Park Service." Glennallen is outside the park, and other communities are along the edge, with McCarthy, Kennicott and others you've never heard of in the middle.

Concerns included excessive shows of force and weaponry, selective enforcement of regulations, threats of extreme access fees, apparently illegal trail (road) closures, misuse of agency funds, disagreements over traditional uses, and more. While the Pilgrims attended, the meeting was not about them.

Relations between residents (in-holders) and park employees are visibly touchy. Why? The Park Service wants private uses and landowners out of Alaska's parks. In Lower 48 parks, the agency's mistreatment of in-holders and pressures to sell became apparent far

too late. Alaska's political leaders avoided that with language in ANILCA protecting access, property rights and local culture. Regardless, as the Wrangells meeting revealed, the Park Service has ways to help people become "willing sellers."

In the Wrangells, residents are determined to coexist peaceably with park personnel. They have every right to demand the park be governed by Alaska-specific legislation that allows more private activities than in Outside parks. Why do Park Service employees have such difficulty accommodating them?

Wrangell-St. Elias is America's largest national park. Nearly 1 million of its 13.2 million acres are state, Native and private lands with access guaranteed. Because "roads" as most people envision them don't exist, overland routes are navigated with virtually all transportation modes, including dozers, horses, swamp buggies, ATVs, snowmachines, etc., during different seasons. Congress insisted these traditional methods of access would continue.

When park employees and their environmental allies continue to mislead the public with inflammatory wording as the Pilgrims "bladed a swath across park land to establish a road," they do not tell the truth. If there are three mining sites (Marvelous Millsite, Spokane Placer and Mother Lode Mine -- and these are not dinky little mines), it stands to reason, absent levitation, that a road existed to get to them.

I wanted to be absolutely certain it was a road, so I flew over the entire route. It is a clearly defined road/trail, including tunnels, designated RS 135 (Revised Statute) by Alaska's government. It is the most

logical route to the Pilgrim property that meets the federal statutory definition of "economic and feasible access." It has been periodically maintained with heavy equipment for 80 years. With no highway department to call, residents traditionally do their own maintenance, and until the Pilgrims' recent clearing action, there wasn't a peep from park officials about permits.

To further aggravate residents, when the Park Service closed RS 135 to mechanized vehicles after the Pilgrims' maintenance work, it let others continue using the road. One resident was so incensed over the closure that she decided to test the Park Service response to neighbors on her road who had clearly bladed park land for a long driveway. After providing the details, she asked, "Now, are you going to close this road too?" The park official responded, "We would never stop you from getting to your house." Curiously, no citations were issued for the unauthorized roadwork.

"It's a police state when the Park Service won't say what the rules are until you break them," a meeting participant said. With agency discretion, even the most benign activities can be found "against the rules." Residents say they walk on eggshells, fearing retaliation for the slightest infraction. Now, encouraged by the media attention, they are talking, and they hope someone will listen and respond to their concerns.

The Park Service desperately wants the Pilgrims' 410 acres, but it can be patient. Its employees have nothing but time and nothing to lose. With endless studies, litigation, fines, fee assessments and other delay tactics in its toolbox,

the agency can easily wear the Pilgrims down and ultimately nationalize their land. Mark my words: Without a "Come to Jesus" intervention, the Park Service won't back down. Like the Pilgrims or not, if

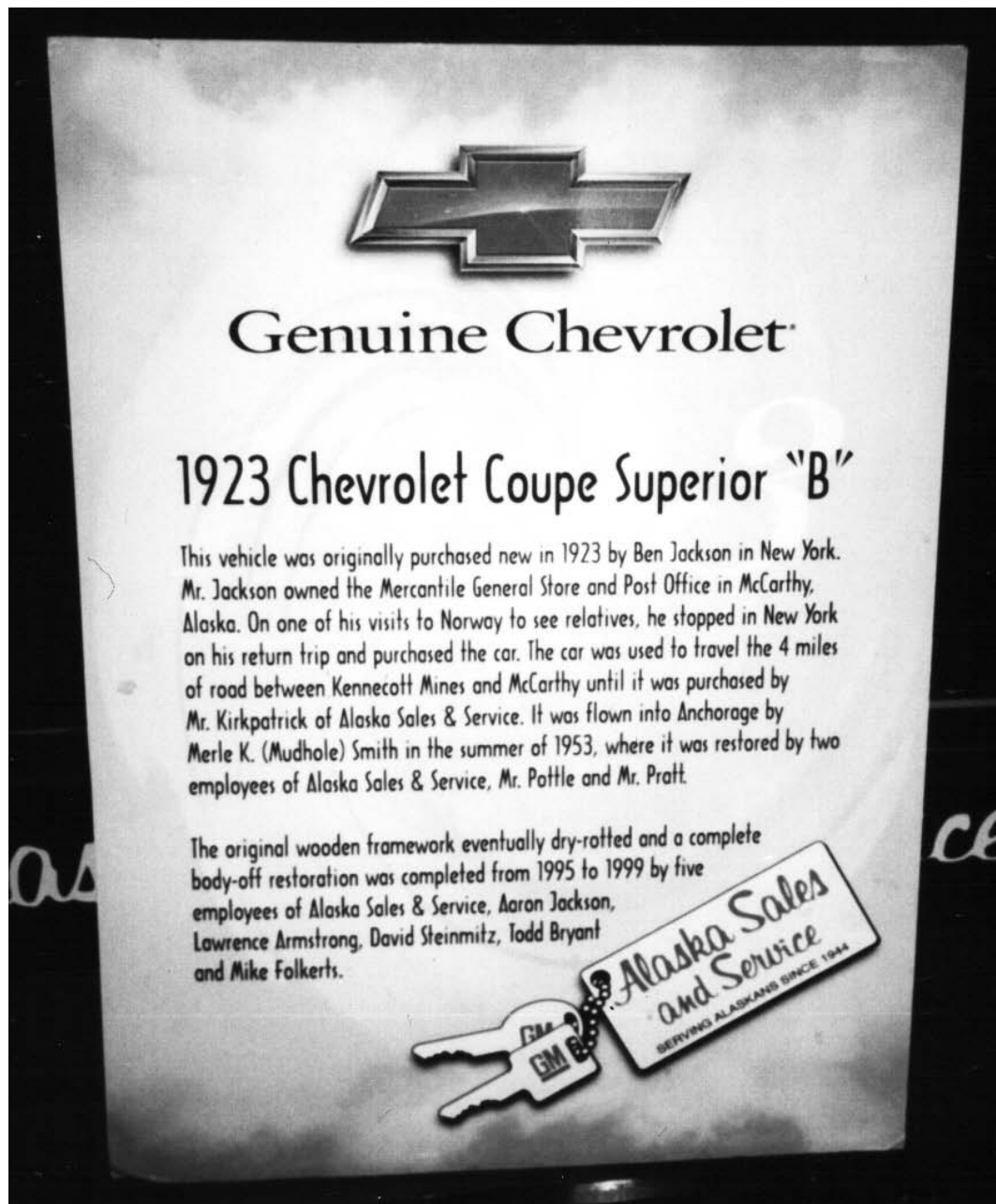
they lose their land, other property owners face some very bad times, and most know it.

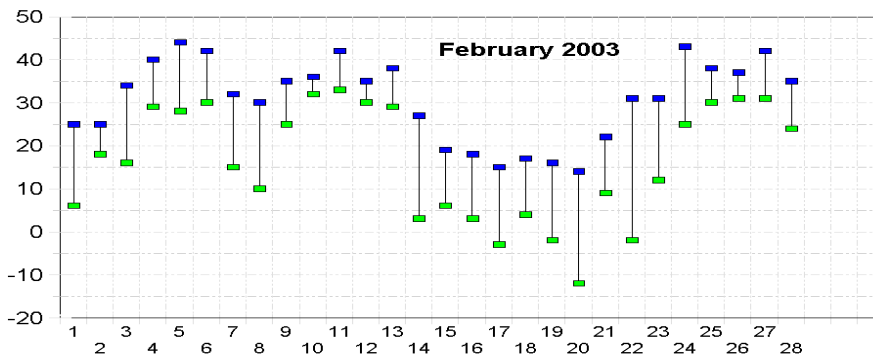
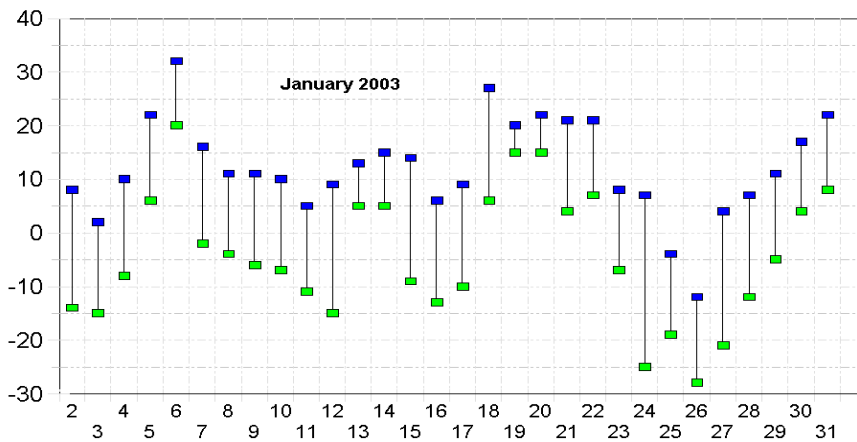
Paula Easley is Principal of Easley Associates. She can be reached at peasley@gci.net

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reader Marion Lampman sent us photos of a restored 1923 Chevrolet on Display at Alaska Sales and Service. The most interesting photo was of the sign sitting on the running board, which we have reproduced below.





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